

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-7, 12-17 and 20 are pending, with Claims 2, 8-11 and 19 cancelled by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 9-10 were objected to; Claims 2, 8-11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Molnar et al. (U.S. Patent 6,694,154, hereinafter Molnar); and Claims 4-7, 12-17 and 20 were allowed.

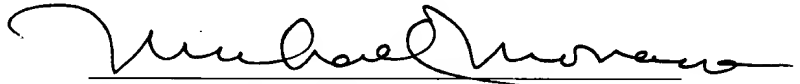
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

The specification is amended to correct a translation error. No new matter is added.

In view of the cancellation of Claims 2, 8-11 and 19, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
MM/rac

Michael E. Monaco
Registration No. 52,041